

# RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

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Vol. XV

October, 1922

No. 4

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\$3.00 per year

Issued Quarterly

75 cents per copy





RHODE  
HISTORICAL



ISLAND  
SOCIETY

## COLLECTIONS

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Vol. XV

October, 1922

No. 4

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HOWARD W. PRESTON, *President*    EDWARD K. ALDRICH, Jr., *Treasurer*  
GEORGE T. SPICER, *Secretary*    HOWARD M. CHAPIN, *Librarian*

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The Society assumes no responsibility for the statements or the opinions of contributors.

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### Captain Kidd in Narragansett Bay

The following account is from Campbell's manuscript "News-Letter."

"Boston, June the 19, 1699.

"Last thursday Capt. Kid came into Road Island harber ; the Governour sent the Collector in a boat with about 30 men well armed in order to goe on board, but Kid shot 2 great Guns, which caused the Collector to retreat. Kids Sloope has 10 Guns, 8 Patteraroes."<sup>1</sup> June 19, 1699, fell on Monday, so that the preceding Thursday was June 15th. The East Passage of Narragansett Bay is called Rhode Island Harbour on the Des Barras chart of 1776. The Capt. Kid mentioned in this item is William Kidd, alias Robert Kidd, perhaps the most famous pirate. A letter discovered in 1849, dated 1700-1, and signed Robert Kid, is printed in part in Field's "Rhode Island," vol. 1, p. 541; and in full in the life of Robert Kidd, published in Palmer, Mass., in 1850. A deposition of Thomas Paine of Conanicut in regard to Capt. Kidd's visit to the bay in 1699 is printed in the R. I. Hist. Mag., vol. 6, p. 156.

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<sup>1</sup> Mass. Hist. Soc. Proc. Feb. 1873, p. 422.

## Recollections of Mount Vernon Bank

(Written by Rachael Knight Budlong<sup>1</sup>, about 1880.)

The Mount Vernon Bank was situated in Foster near the Coventry line on the Plainfield Pike or stage road about two miles east of Rice City. The founders of the bank were Col. Nathaniel Stone, Pardon Holden, Elisha Fish and Peleg Place. The bank was chartered<sup>2</sup> about 1824 and commenced operations in the fall of 1825, with Peleg Place as Cashier and Nathaniel Stone as President. The bank was kept for a few months in the west front chamber of the two storied house, which was owned and occupied by Pardon Holden. It was afterwards removed to a stone building which had been built by Dr. Thomas Carpenter and used for a while as a store after which it was sold to Pardon Holden. This building, together with a shed, stood a short distance west of his house, and was leased by him to the bank for as long a time as it should be used for banking purposes after which it should revert to Holden or his heirs.

Mount Vernon village, called after the bank, was a thriving village at that time. There were then two stages on the road, each driver carried a long tin horn which he blew before coming to a dwelling house. The stage house or tavern was kept by Elisha Fish, and was later sold to Moses Potter.

Mr. Holden was an enterprising man. He owned a large country store, which at that time meant to buy and sell everything. He had a plough shop for the manufacture of cast iron ploughs, the first that were made in Rhode Island. Doct. Thomas O. H. Carpenter, quite a celebrated doctor, had an office and boarded in the place. They also had a post office<sup>3</sup> and with all it was a busy, lively village.

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<sup>1</sup> Sister of Charles Morgan Stone, cashier of the bank.

<sup>2</sup> The bank was chartered in October, 1823. See Acts & Resolves of R. I., Oct. 1823, p. 62. Iri Brown was a director. See Bayles Hist. of Prov. Co., vol. 2, p. 636.

<sup>3</sup> The Post Office was called Mount Vernon in 1866, but the village is now called Vernon.



Col. Nathaniel Stone was the first president and Pardon Holden was the second, the latter served until his death, which occurred in 1831. The next was Samuel Tillinghast.

Peleg Place was the first cashier and a stockholder. He filled that office for eleven years when, becoming infirm from age, Charles M. Stone was chosen to take his place, which he held for eight years, when in the spring of 1844, he removed to Providence to take charge of an agency<sup>1</sup> connected with the bank, a large amount of the business being done in the city. Raymond G. Place was the next and last cashier.

The daughter of Pardon Holden remembers distinctly riding home from Providence with her father, the latter bringing large sums of money in his breast pocket, often times not arriving until dark, something never done at the present time. He went to and fro two or three times a week without molestation although completely unarmed. Mr. Holden was a large and exceedingly powerful man fully able to cope with any opposition he was likely to meet in those days. He served the bank in this and every way in which he could further its interests until his health failed. Afterwards the packages of money were sent by the driver of the mail stage or any person considered perfectly reliable and not a dollar was ever lost in transportation. Fifty-five years ago there were very few houses this side of the bridge.

The bank some years ago was removed to Providence<sup>2</sup> and consequently, by the terms of the lease, the bank building reverted to the heirs of Pardon Holden.

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<sup>1</sup> See Field's Rhode Island, vol. 3, p. 300.

<sup>2</sup> The Rhode Island Historical Society has on exhibition six of the Mount Vernon Bank bills issued after the bank moved to Providence. Joseph Belcher was president in 1857 and 1858. H. G. Place was cashier in 1857 and S. C. Arnold in 1858.

## Notes

Miss Louise C. Hoppin presented to the Society a set of the books illustrated by Augustus Hoppin.

A number of genealogies have been added to the Library.

The most important of these accessions is a genealogy of the Cooke family by Albert Welles, New York, 1880.

The Society has recently received several valuable manuscripts. The largest collection is the "Utley Papers," original manuscripts relating to Tiverton and Little Compton, the gift of Mr. Samuel Utley of Worcester, Mass. Mr. L. H. Austin presented the original manuscript will<sup>1</sup> of Joseph Williams, son of Roger. The Society was fortunate in obtaining a muster roll of several companies of the Rhode Island Militia that served during the War of 1812. Mr. Edwin P. Anthony presented the royal commission granted to Robert Robinson as Registrar of the Vice-Admiralty Court in 1714.

When in England last spring, Mr. William Davis Miller took a photograph of the church at High Lever, Essex, where Roger Williams was married. He has had an enlargement made of this photograph and has given it to the Society.

"Rhode Island's Gift to Telephony," the talk which Mr. Donald Cowell gave before the Society last March, has been printed in the Providence Magazine for May, 1922.

Two new publications of Rhode Island interest have been recently received. They are the "Records of the Court of Trials of the Town of Warwick, R. I., 1659-1674," from the original manuscript in the Shepley Library, and Norman M. Isham's guide to "Wickford and its Neighborhood."

Mrs. Frederick Allien of Riverdale on Hudson, Mr. George R. Burgess of Providence and Mrs. Edward S. Moulton of Providence have been admitted to membership in the Society.

A coat worn by Richard Smith of Cocumscussuc has been added to the Society's museum, the gift of Mr. Walter Hidden.

An exhibition of Rhode Island State Bank bills has been arranged in the exhibition cases in the Portrait Gallery. Over 100 specimens are shown. In addition to those owned by the Society, there are exhibited others loaned by Col. George L. Shepley and Mr. Edward Aborn Greene. Col. H. Martin Brown presented the Society with the Pascoag Bank bill. These bank

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<sup>1</sup> R. I. H. S. Ms. XI, p. 50.



bills were used during the period between the Revolution and the Civil War. The exhibition contains not only bills in the state of circulation, but also cancelled bills, restrikes, unsigned specimens, and two synthetic bills, apparently to be used as models by engravers. Some copper and steel plates from which the bills were struck are also shown. These copper plates were engraved by the local Providence engraver, William Hamlin, the man who engraved the first published view of Providence<sup>1</sup>.

"The Charter and By-Laws of the Newport Guards," printed at Newport by Henry C. Southwick and Co., "Three doors South of the Cap of Liberty" in 1794 has been added to the Shepley Library. It is a hitherto unknown Newport imprint<sup>2</sup>.

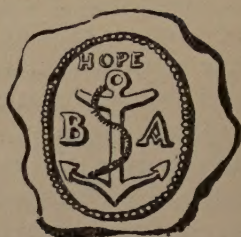
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<sup>1</sup> R. I. H. S. Coll. vol. XII, frontispiece.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. R. I. H. S. Coll. vol. XIV, p. 94.

## Early Rhode Island Seals

Many of the early Rhode Islanders used distinctive seals. Those of James Sweet, 1662 (XI, p. 100), Gregory Dexter, which was used by his son in 1716, R. I. H. S. Ms. I., p. 129 (XII, p. 114), Robert Jeoffreys (XIII, p. 52), Richard Waterman, 1729 (XIII, opp. p. 139), John Greene, Jr. (XIV, p. 5), and William Coddington (XIV, p. 32), have been illustrated in our "Collections." William Ellery's seal is reproduced in the Newport Historical Magazine, IV, p. 184, with a note on page 259, the Lawton seal is described in the Rhode Island Historical Magazine, VI, p. 140, and also the seals of other Newport residents, 1675-1783, VI, pages 67 to 71. Seals of other Rhode Islanders are reproduced in the Massachusetts Historical Society Collections, series 4, volumes VI and VII, and series 5, volume I, and also in the Heraldic Journal, 1865-68.



Governor Benedict Arnold (1615-1678) used two personal seals. One was a conventional scroll with the letters B, D, and A, signifying Benedict and Damaris Arnold. There are several impressions of this seal extant, one of the finest of them being on a deed dated 1676, and preserved at the Rhode Island Historical Society. The other seal is a foul anchor between the letters B. A. This silver seal is still preserved and is on exhibition in the museum of the Rhode Island Historical Society. This seal<sup>1</sup> may have been the Colony seal of 1660, which was discarded in 1664 when Benedict Arnold was Governor. He may have bought the old Colony seal and had his initials added. It is of course possible that Arnold may have merely copied the Colony seal and added his initials. In the Rider Collection, Brown University, there is an impression of this Arnold anchor seal made in 1800 by Samuel Chace.



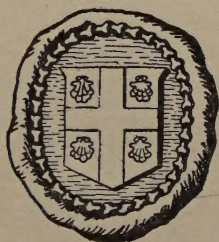
The seal used by John Banister of Newport on a deed dated 1741 in the Tillinghast Papers, vol. I, p. 1, in Rhode Island Historical Society Library.

<sup>1</sup> See Chapin's *The Seal, the Arms and the Flag of Rhode Island*, p. 2.

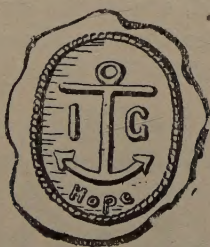




The armorial seal used by John Clarke on his will dated 1676 and preserved at the Newport Historical Society. John Clarke was Deputy Governor and Agent for the Colony.



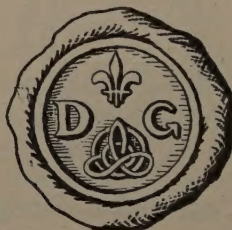
The seal of John Coggeshall of Newport, President of the Colony in 1647. From manuscripts in the Connecticut Archives, Colonial Boundary, vol. I, pp. 103 and 109.



The seal of John Greene of Warwick. This seal appears in the Warner Papers, vol. I, pages 6 (1659), 8 (1665), 11 (1668), and 62 (1696). It may have been one of the early Colony seals with the initials I. G. added after the seal had been discarded by the Colony.



The seal of Samuel Gorton is a conventional design with his initials. It appears in the Greene Papers, page 2, the Warner Papers, vol. I, pages 31, 56, 68, 69, 71, 72, 74, 83, and 84, in the Rhode Island Historical Society Library; Providence Town Papers 090 in the City Hall, and on a letter in the Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Their impression of this seal has been reproduced in M. H. S. C. 4, VII, plate 11.



The seal of Daniel Gould of Newport is somewhat similar to that of Samuel Gorton. Daniel Gould (1625-1716) was the son of Jeremiah Gould, one of the early settlers of Newport. His seal appears in the Warner Papers, vol. 1, p. 57, in the Rhode Island Historical Society Library.



William Harris was one of the founders of Providence. His seal appears on a power of attorney, dated 1678, on page 109 of the Harris Papers at the Rhode Island Historical Society.





### CITY OF ROWSEVILLE, R.I.

*The celebrated watering place. Taken on the spot from actual observation.*

*by E. L. Peckham, Sept. 20, 1839.*

*Printed by E. L. Peckham, Sept. 20, 1839.*

(Manuscript note on reverse of lithograph)

This was a celebrated watering place on border of Old Warwick Pond, where there was an annual outing of 12 to 20 gentlemen for fishing and dinner and sports. They were largely the merchants on South Water Street and quite a number of them were cotton buyers, residing South most of the year, but coming home in Summer. Captain Shubael Cady, Master of the Brig *Rouse* usually arranged for the outing at "Rouseville." Among its members were the Browns, Col. W. W., "Zeph" and "Nat", Allen Mathewson, Jeremiah Gladding, brother of Ben C. who resided on Arnold St. This cartoon is from the pencil of E. L. Peckham, better known as "Ned" Peckham, "taken on the spot."

*From lithograph at Rhode Island Historical Society*

## THE FORERUNNER OF THE SQUANTUM CLUB



KID. bel & Sc.

### CITY OF ROUSEVILLE, R. I.

(Manuscript note on reverse of engraving)

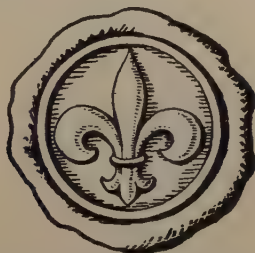
The "Hotel" at this watering place as picture shows was kept by one imaginary "John Smith", who makes quite an exhibit of "Wet goods;" and the only food is a fish hanging on the Hotel, and suggestive of great thrift. The corpulent "gent" at the door requesting him to "pay up" is the genial Capt. Cady, who usually figured expenses and divided the same among the members and usually collected same before dinner, a very wise precaution, where some might forget to settle after a full dinner. The gentlemen on the right, engaged in pitching cents, are of high character and we don't think they played "for keep"; they never acquired the habits of regular gamblers. The "gent" in foreground on the low stool, frying fish, is recognized by his brother, Benj. C., as Jeremiah Gladding. These gatherings continued for some years at different places, at last developing into the present Squantum Club.

*From engraving at Rhode Island Historical Society*





The seal of Ezekiel Holliman, who died in 1659, may be a portrait of St. John the Baptist. Holliman spread the Baptist teachings at Providence, Portsmouth, Newport and Warwick. The seal appears on pages 1 and 36 in volume III of Manuscript Deeds, at the Rhode Island Historical Society Library.



The above seal was used by Obadiah Holmes, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Newport, on his will dated 1682, which is owned by the Newport Historical Society.



The armorial seal of Samuel Hutchinson is reproduced from the *Heraldic Journal*, vol. II, p. 183. Samuel Hutchinson was son of William and Anne Hutchinson. The above seal appears on his will, which is dated 1667.



The seal of Thomas Olney, Junior, of Providence, appears on many papers in the Rhode Island Historical Society Library, a few of which are: R. I. H. S. Ms. I, pages 84, 88, 94, 96, 98, and 106, Deeds III, pages 2, 5, 6, and 7; and Esten Papers 19, 27 and 29.



The seal of Richard Scott was used by his wife, Katherine, on a letter dated Providence 17-4-1658, and preserved at the Massachusetts Historical Society Library. M. H. S. C. 5, I, 96, and plate 2. Richard Scott and Katherine Morbury were married at Berkhamsted, Co. Herts, England, on June 7, 1632.



The armorial seal used by Richard Smith of Cocumscussuc, R. I., on a letter preserved in the Connecticut Archives.





The above seal was used by Mary Holliman on an agreement dated Feb. 22, 1668, and now owned by a descendant, Howard M. Chapin. Mary Holliman married first John Sweet, one of the early settlers of Providence, and secondly Ezekiel Holliman, one of the early settlers of Warwick.



This seal was used by Stukely Westcott in 1656, on a manuscript now in the Rhode Island Historical Society Library, Harris Papers, p. 13. Stukely Westcott's son was named Robert. This seal probably belonged to some earlier member of the Westcott family with initials R. W.



The armorial seal used by Roger Williams in 1637 and 1638 on letters, now preserved at the Massachusetts Historical Society Library. These letters are printed in M. H. S. C. 4, VI, 231-3,

242-4, 248-9, 252-3, 254-61, 266-7, and the seal illustrated on plate 3. There is a discussion of these arms in R. I. H. S. News-sheet, No. 39. It appears probable that they are the arms of the family of Williams of Llangibby, Monmouthshire, with the gyronny lines omitted through carelessness or else cut so lightly that their impression is not now discernible in the wax. These arms were "Gyronny of eight ermine and ermines, a lion rampant or," but are given by Burke as ermine and sable instead of ermine and ermines, and illustrated by Burke as argent and sable. Roger Williams of Llangibby, the head of that family, died in 1575.



William Field of Providence was for years a member of the General Assembly. He died in 1665. His seal appears on pages 6 and 7 of the Field Papers, which are preserved in the Rhode Island Historical Society Library.



## The Wallum Pond Estates

BY HARRY LEE BARNES

(Continued from July Number)

### *Round Pond.*

This pond, having an area of about 50 acres, lies deep in the woods about a mile and a half southwest of Wallum Pond and half a mile south of the Buck Hill road. The outlet on the east side has been deepened to allow the pond to be drawn down a little. According to Keech, friendly Mohawks trapped otter on Round Pond brook in the old days. On the northerly side of the Pond, about 200 feet from the shore, is a boulder of about 12 feet in height and breadth, against which we are told a gang of counterfeiters once built their work hut. The chimney of this cabin was still standing 50 years ago, but now only the fireplace remains. On the northeasterly side of the Pond, near a large flat ledge, is a swampy ravine about 300 feet wide running northeasterly. The rocky ridge on the southern side of this ravine terminates about 1,000 feet from the pond at "Money Rocks." This small rocky cavern, in which tradition<sup>1</sup> says the counterfeiters hid their tools and money is entered from above through a triangular opening, measuring 34 by 38 by 49 inches. The cave is large enough to hold two or three men, but is not high enough to allow one to stand erect. Formerly the opening could be completely closed by a triangular flat stone which had been displaced from and which nicely fitted the aperture, but the opening has been enlarged in recent years by the action of the weather. It has always been believed that the tools and other incriminating evidences of their work were thrown into the Pond when the nature of the work was suspected. In his history of Burrillville, Keech gives an interesting account of the detection and trial of these counterfeiters. He states that one of the counterfeiters became intoxicated at Brandy Hill Tavern in

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<sup>1</sup> Wm. R. Angell was shown Money Rocks by his grandfather, Esten Angell, and the latter by his father, Randall Angell.

Thompson and passed so much new counterfeit money as to arouse suspicion, which lead to his arrest. Among the suspected were Arnold Hunt and Zadoc Sherman (1783-1870), the latter, as a boy of 12, caught the men at their work<sup>1</sup> and was admitted to the gang to induce him to hold his tongue. There is a tradition that Arnold Hunt was put on trial for counterfeiting. No convictions were ever made, according to Keech, because it involved too many prominent people, some of whom were related to the Judge. There is good reason for thinking that part of their dies and other tools were made by Arnold Sayles (1773-1860), who was a very able workman. The writer has seen some of the tools which Sayles is alleged to have made for these counterfeiters. One of these dies made for a coin about the size of a quarter is inscribed "Carlos III Dei Gratia 1789." These counterfeit operations had previously been carried on in Thompson. The counterfeiting at Round Pond covered a considerable period from about 1786 to 1795. Spanish money was counterfeited because it was in common use. A tradition persists that some of the dies were made in Canada and that some of the counterfeit money was put in circulation in that country. On the south side of this pond, a short distance from the shore, is the cellar of the Stanfield house. Several acres had once been cleared about it. About 1840, a man by the name of Robbins cleared up several acres on the southeast shore, built a cabin and lived there with his family<sup>2</sup>. He burned charcoal and carted it to Providence for sale. The Robbins cabin was a wreck by 1850, but the cellar and stone heaps can be plainly seen to-day in the thick woods where one would little expect them.

### *The Buck Hill Woods.*

The Buck Hill Woods is a wilderness of ridges and hills, thickly strewn with boulders and covered with scrub oak, broken by occasional high black oak or scrub pine stumps which have been charred by forest fires. The wood road, leading westerly

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<sup>1</sup> Zadoc Sherman to Barton Jacobs to writer.

<sup>2</sup> Sylvester Angell to writer.



from the present Sanatorium pig house, divides at the top of the first ridge, and the left hand fork, after two or three hundred yards, leads to a high ledge of rocks of unusual appearance and known from the earliest times as Badger Mountain. Whether the name came from a supposed resemblance to a badger or because this animal was at one time found there is not known. The wood road continues southwesterly about half a mile beyond Badger Mountain, where, in a depression of land, is a small pond about 200 feet long by 100 feet wide and 4 to 6 feet deep. This pond is fed by springs and yet is apparently without an outlet or running off brook. The easterly side of the pond, about its middle, was the site of William Angell's steam sawmill, about 1903. Six or seven hundred feet northwesterly of this pond is Goat Rock, a ledge about 80 feet long, with a perpendicular face on the easterly side, 15 to 20 feet high. Why it is called Goat Rock, no one seems to know. It might well have been called "coon rock," as it seems to have been a favorite resort for raccoons. At the foot of the northerly end of the Goat Rock is a brook which in the springtime, is, perhaps, half the size of Clear River, and this brook is believed to drain the Angell sawmill pond by an underground passage. After flowing about 100 feet on the surface, in direction a little west of southwest, it disappears underground to reappear later on its way to join the Leeson Brook.

On the Buck Hill highway, six-tenths of a mile southeasterly of Orrin Whiting's, one crosses a brook which flows southwesterly into Quadick Reservoir in Thompson and in its lower course, in the Buck Hill district, is known as the Lewis Brook. This brook is formed by the union of several small brooks which rise in the Buck Hill woods westerly and southwesterly of the Sanatorium. The Leeson Brook, so named from one Leeson, who many years ago had a house and clearing near it, may be considered the main brook in the sense that it is the longest, rises about eight-tenths of a mile west of the southern end of Wallum Pond and flows southerly, receiving branches from the east. About a third of a mile northerly of the Buck Hill road, a brook enters from the east called the "Boiling Spring Brook." Follow-

ing up this brook in an easterly direction, about half a mile through Boiling Spring Cedar Swamp, one comes to the Boiling Spring, a circular spring, perhaps 8 feet in diameter, where the water, which is cold, can be seen to rise or "boil" up from the ground. A pole can be stuck in the bottom of the spring 10 or 15 feet, without reaching firm bottom. About 300 feet easterly of this spring is a brook which comes from a swamp about 20 rods northeasterly of the cellar hole of the William Trask house. In high water this brook runs overground into the Boiling Spring, but at other times it is lost underground, probably reappearing in the Boiling Spring Brook. The Trask Swamp Brook is dry in summer, but, no matter how dry the weather, the Boiling Spring pours out a generous stream of water. About half a mile northerly of Goat Rock Brook is another brook which runs southeasterly into Leeson Brook. This brook starts in a swamp about half a mile southwesterly of Wallum Pond, disappears for some distance, and then reappears in a spring of water, very cold from its underground journey and called Cold Spring Brook. Leeson Brook, like its tributaries, has a trick of disappearing in some places in the upper part of its course.

Coon Cave lies about half a mile westerly of the southern end of Wallum Pond in a ledge of rocks about 50 feet long by 10 feet high, facing the west. At the foot of the ledge is an opening in the rocks into which a man can crawl about 15 feet. A torch shows many crevices and holes extending about 20 feet farther and large enough to form hiding places for animals. This small cave has been a favorite place for bats in summer time and many a coon and fox have here found safe retreat from hunters. On the westerly side of the ledge is a swampy pond hole about 200 feet long by 60 feet wide, filled with swamp huckleberry bushes of unusual height. This swamp drains northerly into a small pond of clear water of about the same size. A few rods westerly and in plain sight of this pond, is a prominent irregular ledge of rocks known as Rattlesnake Ledge. Over 50 years ago, Reuben Dudley spent 3 or 4 days about here catching rattlesnakes for a circus. The rattlesnakes were caught by pinning their heads to the ground with a forked stick and



then seizing the snakes and depositing them in a bag. Dudley<sup>1</sup> caught 20 rattlesnakes, for which he was paid \$100. On the easterly side of the pond, by Rattlesnake Ledge, is the running out or outlet brook, which, after the fashion of Buck Hill streams, runs underground for a considerable distance. The water, though out of sight, can be heard on its way to Wallum Pond. The reason for the disappearance of the brooks in the Buck Hill woods is found in the enormous number of boulders so thickly piled together that in many places one may walk for long distances without touching earth. The water, falling several feet through the crevices between these boulders, which, in some places have a thin covering of moss, leaf mould, or loam, is often lost to sight and hearing.

*The Clear River Reservoir Co.*

The value of Wallum Pond as a reservoir for the Bridgeton mills has always been considerable. These mill owners are said to have paid Darling to open his gates at the outlet of the pond until these outlet gates were finally bought by Marsh and later, Sept. 18, 1860, by Augustus Hopkins of Bridgeton. The Clear River Reservoir Co., a chartered corporation, afterward leased Wilson's Pond, Sept. 20, 1866, and raised the dam 7 feet, thus enlarging Wilson's Pond. They also built a new dam and gate and deepened the trench at the outlet of Wallum Pond so that the pond can be drawn four feet lower than before. The old log dam at the north outlet was replaced by one of stone. Their questionable deed to flow the land about Wallum Pond to any height was never carried out. The right of the Clear River Reservoir Co. to sell and market ice was sold to Wm. E. Bowen, March 23, 1900.

*O'Neil's Camp.*

This land was originally sold from John Howland's farm and at one time belonged to Howland Kimball. The name of Nehe-

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<sup>1</sup> In a newspaper account a few years before his death, it was stated that Dudley, who frequently hunted in the Douglas and Buck Hill woods, had caught or killed 700 coons, 150 foxes, 21 otter, 67 rattlesnakes and 250 swarms of wild bees. This statement is credited by reliable persons who knew him.

miah Kimball, who formerly lived on this place, begins to appear in the deeds as early as 1815. He at first lived in a log house on the south side of the road<sup>1</sup>. After a few years, he built a frame house on the north side of the road, where the cellar hole is still readily seen. He married Cyrene, daughter of Israel Aldrich, a farmer on Wallum Pond Hill, and lived on the O'Neil place until his death in 1849. His wife lived here as late as 1860 and then lived in Mapleville with her son, Daniel. This house was bought by a man named Moore, who moved it to Pascoag for a fish market. Mrs. Kimball sold the place to James Dockery in 1864. John Riley owned the place from 1872 until 1903, when it was bought by the Pascoag Fishing Club, so called, Thos. O'Neil and seven other men, each of whom owned two or three-twentieths of the property. The small cabin built in 1894 was replaced by the present camp in 1903. Mr. O'Neil, who conducted the place, gave clambakes and entertained fishermen and others.

### *The Railroad.*

The origin of the Providence and Springfield Railroad, which was built to Pascoag in 1872-1873, was described to the writer by the late William Tinkham, the Harrisville manufacturer, who was President of this railroad, substantially as follows:—"The water furnishing insufficient power for the mills, we had burned wood largely up to 1872, when the wood was pretty well cut off and we were so far in the country that it was too expensive to haul coal over the road. I met Albert L. Sayles in the Arcade in Providence one day and said to him, 'We must build a railroad up there, and we can't get on without it.' Mr. Sayles said, 'Yes, but we can't do it alone; we must get someone to help.' I went to my office and wrote an article for the *Providence Journal*, and Mr. Danielson, the editor, wrote an editorial. After one month's advertisement and agitation, we tried to sell stock and got \$200,000 easily. The trains started to run in August, 1873." The plans for the extension from Pascoag to

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<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Nehemiah Kimball, Jr., to writer.

Southbridge, passing by the east and north sides of Wallum Pond, were made July 11, 1891, and most of the deeds of the property to the railroad for this extension were made in 1892 and 1893. Service between Pascoag and Southbridge was discontinued for a time but was recommenced after the erection of the State Sanatorium. The Providence to Southbridge line was sold to the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company Oct. 30, 1905, the sum named being \$569,195.

### *The Red House on the Hill.*

This house, near the southern end of Wallum Pond Hill with a commanding view toward Pascoag, was originally part of the Capt. John Whipple farm and later of the John Howland farm. It was subsequently bought by the Phillipses, who owned the factory and who probably used it for their mill employees. On the division of the Phillips's mill estate by the court, Israel Aldrich bought this place. Dutee Logee once lived here. While the mills were running, Daniel Kimball, Aldrich's grandson, had a good country store in this house, and, at one time, Sabin Millard had a saloon with a bowling alley in the basement. Joseph Bowdish and Lovell Parker lived there for a time. Martin H. Smith sold the place to James Dockery, July 7, 1860. Dockery was a big Irishman who had a large family. There is a tradition that there was once a distillery for moonshine corn whiskey in the woods about a half mile east of the Wallum Lake Station. In 1872 this place was sold to John Riley and Alfred Angell (1841-1884), who lived there together until Riley bought out Angell. Riley sold to the Pascoag Fishing Club, so called, May 7, 1903, from whom it was bought by Mr. Singleton. Since then, it has been for the most part unoccupied. The barn burned down about 1907. This place was considered as a site for the Sanatorium before the present site was purchased.

### *Quarries.*

About a mile from the Wallum Lake Depot, toward Pascoag, on both sides of the railroad one sees where stone has been quarried. This work began almost immediately after the building of



the railroad. Henry Mathewson, of Providence, took a 50 years lease of six acres on the southwesterly side of the railroad, Sept. 21, 1893. The land on the opposite side of the track was leased to John Leavet, who, until 1906, quarried stone there and also near the Providence Ice Company's spur track at the north end of the pond, where much building stone had been obtained in the old days. The quarry near the ice house was in a ledge formerly called the Snake Den. This stone was said to be a granite good for foundations, but not good enough for monuments, as it contained mica which fell out and left pits. The granite used in the construction of the Boston Dry Dock was obtained from these quarries.

#### *The Wallum Pond School.*

In May, 1800, the Gloucester Town Council appointed a committee to divide the town into school districts. The Wallum Pond district was No. 1 and extended south on the Connecticut line to Henry Pollock's, then eastward by the south side of James King's, about half a mile south of the Sanatorium, to Cyrus Logee's, about a mile northeasterly of the Sanatorium and then northward by Lippitt Eddy's to the Massachusetts line. Cyrus Logee<sup>1</sup> was the first to be given a certificate to teach in the Wallum Pond district. The old schoolhouse stood on the north side of the east highway leading from Wallum Pond Hill to Pascoag and a little east of the highway leading from the Ezra Stone or Friery place to the first mentioned highway. When this schoolhouse became old and badly in need of repair, a new one was built in the triangular area where the road from Douglas meets the east road from Wallum Pond to Pascoag, about a quarter of a mile south of the present Singleton house. While it was natural that the factory people should prefer the new site, and Capt. Samuel White and the Logees, the old site, as being nearer to each neighborhood respectively, the bitterness of the quarrel over the two sites so near each other seems amusing at this date. About 1843<sup>2</sup>, the matter was compromised by moving

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<sup>1</sup> Records of the Gloucester Town Council.

<sup>2</sup> Statement of Sylvester Angell, who saw the schoolhouse moved.

the new schoolhouse half way between the two sites, where, on the side hill, it could hardly have been satisfactory to anyone. Most of the larger children worked while the mill was running, when the school sometimes declined in number to two or three pupils. During slack time at the factory because of shortage of water, etc., the number of pupils increased to about thirty. This school, with its rattling windows, many wasps, few children and a fifteen-year-old school teacher, made a bad impression on Ellen Wakefield<sup>1</sup>, in 1856. Sometime in the fifties, James Riley recalls seeing a man teacher named Kenyon deposited in the woodbox by Alfred Angell, Emory White and William Green. In later times, Burrillville changed the district to exclude the Buck Hill region and extended it southerly to include the A. S. Wells house. The school census shows the enrollment in later years to have been as follows: 1885, 11; 1886, 11; 1887, 9; 1888, 14; 1889, 13; 1890, 13; 1891, 12; 1892, 9; 1893, 6.

In early years the school was taught by Preserved Alger; and in the early fifties, and probably earlier, by Emily King, whose efficiency is still a tradition. In the fifties and sixties, the school was taught by Sarah Wakefield, Mary Paine, Nancy Paine, Nancy Howland, Susan Page and Ellen Paine. In the early eighties by Grace Blake and Maria L. Ross. In the late eighties and nineties, some of the teachers were Lillian Bailey, Maggie Shea and Ella M. Thayer. The school was discontinued in April, 1893, because of the small number of pupils and the school house burned a few years afterward.

#### *George Stone.*

On the right hand side of the road running from the schoolhouse corner to the Friery farm, there stood, in the old days, a large two-story gambrel-roof house with two large barns, corn crib and orchard, owned by George Stone. Mr. Stone operated a large cooper shop, wheelwright shop and blacksmith shop; which he bought of Ezra Stone May 17, 1803. On the opposite side of the road was a horsepower cider mill, and at the school-

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<sup>1</sup> Statement to writer.

house corner on the south side of the road, near a good spring, were the tannery vats or tubs, parts of which were seen as late as 1850. Mr. Stone's business had disappeared before 1840, the house standing perhaps until 1850. Many individuals of the Stone, Alger and neighboring families were buried in the Stone burying ground north of the George Stone house, near the Friery farm.

### *The Alger's.*

Two brothers, Joshua and Preserved Alger, at one time lived in a two-family house on the south side of the road, east of George Stone's corner. The house stood about opposite the recently disused highway leading to the Duty Logee place. In later years John Riley and James Riley lived there. Half of the house was torn down by the latter and the remainder took fire, from ashes left in a barrel, and burned<sup>1</sup>. Joshua Alger, who bought the old school-house which stood on the north side of the road, and east of the George Stone corner, built an addition to it and occupied it for some time. When beyond repair, this house was torn down by Patrick Friery.

### *Enoch Angell's Place.*

On the opposite side of the road from the Singleton house and a short distance southerly, was a small house and barn built by Ezra Stone for his son, Amos. The latter sold to Arnold Baker, who lived there in 1834. Baker's mortgage to Randall Angell was never paid, and the property passed through the hands of his son, Brown, to Brown's son, Enoch (1832-1865). The latter removed the foundation wall from one end of the house in excavating for a new addition, and a heavy wind storm tipped the house over and it was allowed to rot<sup>2</sup>. Enoch Angell's only child and heir, Maria Angell Wood, sold the place to Mr. Singleton.

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<sup>1</sup> James Riley to writer.

<sup>2</sup> Statement to the writer by Sylvester Angell, who at one time owned the house.



*The Singleton Farm.*

John Howland, a descendant of the John Howland who came over on the Mayflower, carried on the farm after his purchase from Whipple in 1770 until 1802, when he sold to James Burlingame. Buffum Chase, a tanner, bought of Burlingame in 1814. It is not unlikely that Chase conducted or worked in the old tannery. Chase defaulted a mortgage and gave possession to John Arnold in 1819. Randall Angell bought the property with his son, Brown, in 1827, and the latter became sole owner in 1833 and lived there until his death. Brown Angell (1801-1878) was a successful farmer and one of the few in this neighborhood who raised tobacco. His son, Luther, conducted the farm until his death. The farm was bought of the Angell heirs by William Green, a son-in-law of Brown Angell, who held it until his sale to James H. Singleton. About 200 yards southwesterly of the Singleton house is a small burying ground containing field stone monuments without names.

*Olney Angell's Place.*

This farm, the next one north of Singleton's, from which it is separated by the State line between Rhode Island and Massachusetts, was a part of the "Boston Men's" 1,900-acre tract previously described. It was laid out to John Binning, whose only child and heir, Sarah, married Jeremiah Green, a Boston distiller. Green sold all of this farm east of the Pond, containing 280 acres, to John Hunt, March 2, 1773. John Hunt sold 131 acres to Daniel Hunt in 1775. The latter cleared the land and made his home there until old age, possibly until death. During the Revolution<sup>1</sup>, he was arrested on suspicion of being a Tory, but was discharged after satisfying the authorities of his innocence. His widow, Hulda, sold the place to Randall Angell, in 1813. The latter paid for this farm with the proceeds of the corn and rye, beef and pork, butter and cheese raised on the place and carted to Providence by ox-team<sup>2</sup>. Brown Angell, as a boy of 16, carried on this farm alone for months at a time for his

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<sup>1</sup> Emerson's History of Douglas, page 75.

<sup>2</sup> Randall's statement to grandson, Sylvester Angell.

father, having his younger sister with him as housekeeper. When Brown Angell was settled on the present Singleton farm, Olney (1808-1886), another son of Randall Angell, took the place and lived there until his death. The Angells tore down the old Hunt house, which was in bad condition, and built the house now standing. The old cellar of the Hunt house may be seen about 200 feet north of the present house.

*The Alexander Ritchie Place.*

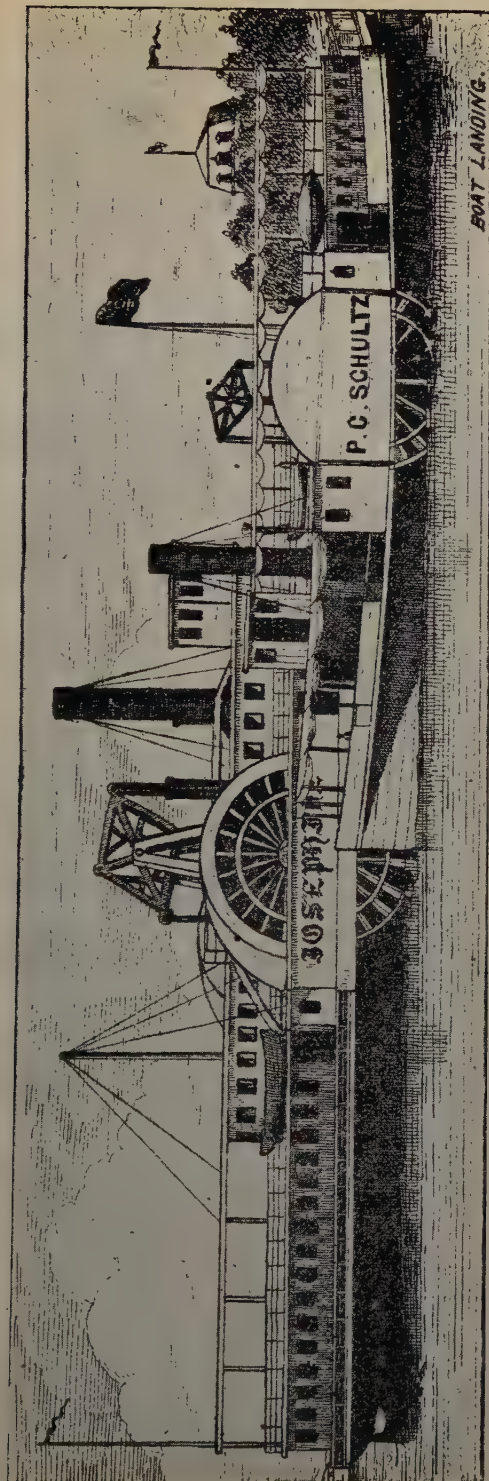
Obadiah Brown, afterward associated with Samuel Slater, the noted manufacturer, who bought the Daniel Hunt place in 1809, failed to pay off his mortgage to Hunt, and after the latter's death the court appointed Israel Aldrich and Richard Mowry to settle the estate. From the northern part of the Hunt place, a 61-acre lot was sold to John Rich of Sutton, September 20, 1813. Benjamin Robbins and John Hunt bought this land the following November and the next April sold to Jonathan Aldrich, a son of Israel Aldrich, who built the first house and lived there until 1849, when he sold to his son-in-law, William Buxton, and moved to Centerdale, R. I. Subsequent owners were Lovell Parker (1810-1891), Michael Roberts, who married Mary Ritchie, aunt of Alexander Ritchie, who bought in 1893. The house burned in 1901 from a forest fire which started from the railroad near the pond, and Ritchie replaced the old house with the present log house.

In the woods on the opposite side of the road, extending a mile from the State line to the Wallum Pond-Douglas school house, is a swamp known as Bear Swamp. There is a tradition<sup>1</sup> that the last bear in the vicinity was hunted in this swamp. After killing a dog belonging to one Sherman, the bear took refuge in a tree and was killed.

Most of the area eastward of Bear Swamp, extending from the Fairfield road to the Tasseltop road and from the Rhode Island line northward to the Wallum Pond-Douglas school house road, was covered with a hemlock forest from early colonial days

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<sup>1</sup> Statement to the writer by Edwin C. Esten, who received the information from his mother, the daughter of Jonathan Marcy.



EARLY NARRAGANSETT BAY STEAMBOATS

The *Josephine* and the *P. C. Schultz* at Oakland Beach

*From the Daily Graphic, New York, July 24, 1875*  
*in Rhode Island Historical Society Library*





IMPLEMENTS USED BY THE NARRAGANSETT INDIANS

*From the Museum of the Rhode Island Historical Society*

down to perhaps 1860. The brook which drains Bear Swamp and flows northeasterly nearly to Tasseltop was named Hembeck (Hemlock) on Dr. Douglas's map.

*The Charles Arnold Place.*

The cellar hole of this house is the next one north of Ritchie's log house. November 20, 1779, William Menzies bought what remained of Katherine Robertson's lot, cleared the farm and erected buildings. After his death, the administrators sold the property to Daniel Hunt, April 9, 1795. Jonah Brown, Jr., bought part of the property in 1802 and was living there when he sold to Abbee Brown in 1811. Aaron Benson bought it November 4, 1813, and, the following January, sold to Otis Buxton (1786-1873). The latter, with his wife, Salome (1787-1887), and a large family of children, lived there until 1835, when he sold to his son, Daniel, and bought John Martin's place west of Wallum Pond. Daniel Buxton (1812-1897), a rather picturesque and unconventional character, owned, at one time or another, most of the land on the northern part of Wallum Pond Hill. In 1851, he sold to his brother, Allen Buxton (1827-1897), and moved into the Israel Aldrich house. A few feet westerly of the house was a shoemaker's shop containing half a dozen benches<sup>1</sup>, where Charles Arnold employed his neighbors in the late fifties and early sixties. Later owners or tenants were Alonzo P. Taft, who operated a sawmill, Lovell Parker, Dexter Walling and George Walling. The house burned between 1892 and 1898, and the barn fell down sometime in the nineties.

Daniel Buxton, according to his son, William, was a spectator at the "Battle of Acote's Hill" in Chepachet in 1842. Mr. Sylvester Angell recalls hearing the commotion due to the flight of Dorr's troops over Wallum Pond Hill and across the Massachusetts line during the night after the affair. Thomas O'Neil quotes Joseph Bowdish as saying that some of Dorr's men spent the night in Bowdish's barn, located easterly of the school-house.

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<sup>1</sup> Fred Arnold to writer.

*The Vickers Place.*

The cellar of this house is close to the road and has large lilac bushes near it. In the old days, the Providence to Southbridge stage turned into this place, went westward down by the north end of the pond, across the brook and swamp on a long bridge-way, and continued westerly over the hill to the Coffee House four corners. This road is still passable for a horse and wagon as far as the pond.

The Vickers Place was a part of Andrew Tyler's lot, which was sold for taxes at an auction, May 29, 1782, to Dr. William Jennison (1732-1798), who acquired much property in Douglas. Two years later Dr. Jennison bought 240 acres more of the Andrew Tyler lot from the latter's granddaughter, Miriam Tyler Powell of New Haven, Conn. Between 1782 and 1795, the property passed through the hands of Peter Tyler, Joseph Chase and Abel and John Robbins. It is likely that the stage road to the pond was built during the latter's ownership, as it is mentioned for the first time when he sold to Daniel Aldrich in 1795. The farm had probably been cleared and buildings erected by that time. Seth Aldrich, who bought of his father, Daniel, lived here from 1799, until he sold to Dr. Levi Eddy (1776-1844) in 1810. Dr. Eddy rented the property to David Buxton, a brother of Otis Buxton, and to Benjamin Green, who had married a Buxton and who lived here many years. After Dr. Eddy's death, the property passed successively through the hands of Daniel Buxton, Alpheus Humes and Allen Buxton. In 1858, Ruth Buxton Burbank and Rhoda Buxton Ide bought the place for their father and mother, Otis and Salome Buxton, specifying that it should be free from the interference of their husbands, a clause evidently inserted to make sure that the old couple could remain as long as they pleased. In 1864, Abigail Vickers, a woman of Indian blood, who had married Erastus Vickers, mixed Indian and negro, bought the place and lived there until Dutee Salisbury bought to erect the summer camp at the north end of the pond in 1891. The house burned, about 1892.



*The Israel Aldrich Farm.*

The farm is nicely situated on the northern crest of Wallum Pond Hill with fine views of the Pond, the Douglas Woods and Mt. Watchusett. This land was probably a part of William Tyler's share in the 1,900-acre tract which, by his will, was left to his son, Joseph Tyler. Lucy Tyler Whitwells and Frances Tyler sold to Israel Aldrich (1765-1831), March 30, 1787. Benjamin Green heard Mr. Aldrich say<sup>1</sup> that he cleared and planted so much land the first spring after he settled here that it took him 30 days to do his hoeing. Aldrich was a prosperous farmer. His son, Asahel, who afterward lived on the next place to the northward (the Ernest Singleton Place), operated the sawmill by the railroad, about half a mile northwest of Wallum Pond. One of Israel's daughters married Capt. Samuel White and another married a Wallis; and both daughters, with their father and mother, are buried in the family burying ground about 600 feet northwesterly of the home site. Mr. Tallman, who at one time operated the Wallum Pond factory, lived in the Israel Aldrich house for some time, about 1851. Daniel Buxton was living in it when it burned in 1854.

*Religious Services.*

Wallum Pond never had a church, but services were frequently held in the Douglas school house, which was on the north side of the road leading easterly from the Israel Aldrich place on Wallum Pond Hill and about one quarter of a mile therefrom. Mr. Harvey Wakefield (1808-1889), the Gore minister, occasionally came up to preach in the school-house. Others who sometimes conducted services there were Ezra Stone and Erastus Vickers. Some of the Wallum Pond Hill neighborhood attended Mr. Wakefield's services in East Thompson; others attended church in Tasseltop; and there was a church of the Mormons or Latter Day Saints near the Marcy Place, about two miles east of Wallum Pond Hill.

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<sup>1</sup> Wm. Green to writer.

*Wallum Pond-Douglas School.*

The first school-house<sup>1</sup> on this site was built by Emer Bowen in 1799 at an expense of \$135. The teacher in this school in 1835<sup>2</sup> was Augusta Batchelder; and in 1841 Joseph Seagraves. Other teachers before 1855<sup>3</sup> were Malvina Richardson, Sarah Healey, Clara Holman, Sarah Jefferson, and, in later years, Sarah Walling and Grace Darling. This school was continued until the burning of the building, about 1893.

*The Summer Camps.*

It is not surprising that such a beautiful sheet of water, with adjoining wooded hills and good fishing, should have proved attractive to summer campers. Dutee Salisbury, of Pascoag, camped in a tent with a frame cook house at the north end of the Pond in 1891 and 1892, and, after the opening of the railroad in 1893 had made the place more accessible, built two camps there. He afterwards rented these camps to Horatio Bellows, to one Hughes and others, who conducted a boarding house, there being about thirty summer boarders living in the camps and tents at the north end, where there is a fair beach for bathing. Mr. Oliver Inman at one time had a tent camp north of the railroad, near the spring. Wm. Inman, of Bridgeton, camped one season in a tent in the pine grove near the Sanatorium site and took his meals at the Salisbury Camp. The next season (1894), he built a camp near Salisbury's and occupied it several seasons. Dr. E. V. Granger of Pascoag, after camping in a tent in the pine grove behind Sylvester Angell's house several summers, built a camp on the east shore on railroad land about 1,000 feet south of the north end. Wm. Dyer, of Providence, bought the two Salisbury camps, about 1908, and summered there with his family for several seasons. While the Sanatorium was being built, its architect, Howard Thornton, of Providence, built a camp on the east shore a little north of the middle of the pond. This camp burned, about 1906, and the

<sup>1</sup> Emerson's History of Douglas, page 91.

<sup>2</sup> Susan Green Angell (1827- ) to writer.

<sup>3</sup> Nancy Buxton Anderson to writer.

camp afterward built by Clarence King and now owned by Mr. J. Ernest Singleton, is located on the same site. In the summer of 1914, Mr. W. E. Gaucher of Harrisville built a camp on the lower west shore almost opposite the Sanatorium ice house.

### *Minerals.*

It has long been a tradition<sup>1</sup> in the Angell family that in early days hunters about Wallum Pond made bullets from lead<sup>2</sup> obtained from rocks. Smith F. Angell states that his father, George R. Angell, told him that the latter, with Arnold Stone, made bullets from lead cut out of seams in the rocks with a jackknife and that this lead was found near Goat Rock. In the prospectus of the Gold Milling & Refining Co., organized by Sylvester Angell and others, it is claimed that three veins of silicious ore have been located on the northwestern side of Wallum Lake and that four of the assays showed gold valued from \$5.15 to \$24.92 per ton, silver from 31 cents to \$22.04 per ton, and arsenic, amount unstated.

### *The Ice Companies.*

The Wallum Pond Ice Co. was organized by Richard W. Smith, formerly a teacher in the Mowry & Goff School of Providence, who became President of the concern. The corporation bought land of the Knowltons on the west shore of the pond near the north end, May 12, 1894. An ice house having a capacity of about eighteen thousand tons, a boarding house for the men and over 1,000 feet of spur track were constructed and steam engine and hoisting machinery installed. The company did not prosper, and after being mortgaged to Fred L. Sayles and leased to Wm. E. Bowen, the property, following some litigation, was acquired by the Providence Ice Co. in November, 1901. The ice house was filled nearly every year, but rarely emptied, as this ice was usually kept in reserve until the supply nearer Providence was exhausted. On Feb. 14, 1915, while a

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<sup>1</sup> Sylvester Angell from his father, Brown Angell.

<sup>2</sup> Israel Aldrich told Benjamin Green that the Indians got lead from rocks in the Douglas woods. A similar account is given in Winthrop's Journal, Jameson's Ed., Vol. 1, page 108.



gang of men were preparing to commence ice cutting, the ice house took fire and burned so rapidly that several men barely had time to escape from the building. It was believed that the fire resulted from men smoking in the straw lofts under the roof. The boarding house burned a few hours later. The Crystal Ice Co., of Providence, of which David F. Sherwood was President, on Jan. 23, 1901, bought of Sylvester Angell, three or four acres of land near the outlet of Wallum Pond, with the ostensible purpose of building an ice house and railroad spur track to the property, but this project never materialized and these rights were afterward sold to John F. Kaufman and later, Nov. 18, 1901, to the Providence Ice Co. No attempt to utilize this property was ever made.

### *Farms West of the Pond.*

From the west shore of the pond, the wooded land rises steadily for about a third of a mile to the summit of the Buck Hill ridge, which runs north and south parallel to the pond and about 150 feet above it. The top of the ridge forms a rolling plateau about a mile wide from which the land slopes downward and westward into Connecticut. The ridge extends many miles to the southward, but to the northward it is severed by the valley of Rocky Brook, which crosses it in its westerly course. There have been five farms on this ridge, two in Rhode Island near the Massachusetts line and three in Massachusetts. Considering how hilly and stony the land is hereabouts, and how deeply in the woods the farms are located, one is surprised to see how smooth this land is and how excellent the farm buildings were as evident from the large and well built foundations.

### *The Worsley Place.*

South of the Whitman place is what was formerly called the Hatch lot. This land was laid out in the original right of Daniel Abbott of Providence, who sold to Estes Hatch, of Dorchester,

Mass., Sept. 3, 1726<sup>1</sup>. A tradition persists that lands in this vicinity belonging to Hatch and one Menzies, who were Tories, were confiscated during the Revolution. The tradition is incorrect as applied to this land, which was sold by Estes Hatch and Nathaniel Hatch, of Boston, to John Aldrich and Daniel Abbott, Nov. 26, 1751<sup>1</sup>. In 1809, Joseph Worsley, of Thompson, bought 112 acres of the Hatch lot of William Joy. The Worsley house stood about 50 rods southerly of the Whitman house and had disappeared before 1850. The barn<sup>2</sup> was then standing and was used by Serrail Jacobs for his sheep, which were pastured on the Worsley place.

#### *The Whitman Farm.*

Elijah Whitman bought this place, 62 acres, of Elias Joy, Oct. 28, 1808, cleared the land and, after living for some time in a log house, built a frame house in Rhode Island, 80 rods from the Massachusetts line. In 1812, Burrillville accepted a road leading westward into Thompson. Whitman and Worsley thus had the unusual experience of running farms in Burrillville, Rhode Island, and having no highway communication with the rest of the town unless they previously passed through a section of either Massachusetts or Connecticut. Wood roads which lead southeast to the pond and to the present Sanatorium pig-gery were used for logging in winter. In 1818, Joseph Munyon sold to Joseph Benson a tract of woodland to the westward of Whitman's. The highest point of this land has been called Benson Mountain and is 794 feet above the sea level, 16 feet higher than Wallum Pond Hill and 219 feet above the pond. After Whitman's death, his wife, Sally, moved to Oxford, and, with his children, Elijah, the 2nd, et al, sold the farm to Henry Wheelock, March 7, 1854. The farm was afterward owned by Lemuel, a son of Ebenezer Starr. The unoccupied house burned to the ground in the forest fire, about 1911.

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<sup>1</sup> See deed of Estes and Nathaniel Hatch to John Aldrich and Daniel Abbott in the Gloucester Records.

<sup>2</sup> Barton Jacobs to writer.

*The Mason, Buxton and Starr Farms.*

From the Whitman place, a road leads northward, crossing the Rhode Island line to the three Massachusetts farms. It has been a tradition that these farms were the so-called "Boston Men's Farms," and it is true that the eastern parts of these farms were originally granted to the "Boston Men." It appears likely that these lands were cleared and the buildings erected during the ownership of Abraham Mason (1763-1852). Mason was a veteran of the Revolution and subsequently a blacksmith in Thompson. He was a small, wiry man who weighed scarcely 120 pounds but possessed great strength. One of the feats still related by those who remember him<sup>1</sup> was the crossing of an unfinished room with his body suspended in air, by clinging with the thumb and fingers of each hand to the overhead joists. The tract comprising these three farms was bought in one piece by Abraham Mason of Dr. Timothy Jennison, of Cambridge, in 1799. Dr. Jennison's father, Dr. Wm. Jennison, had previously bought the tract of Abijah Estes, who bought of John Reed, of Uxbridge, February 9, 1761. Reed's deed to Estes states that this land was bounded on the east by the "Boston Men's Farms."

(To be concluded)

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<sup>1</sup> Ira Wakefield (1837- ) to writer.







FORM OF LEGACY

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"I give and bequeath to the Rhode Island  
Historical Society the sum of .....  
dollars."